YOUTH

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CENTRE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
SOCIAL GROUPS ACTIVITIES BRANCH
YOUTH UNIT

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PREFACE

The Youth Information Bulletin is published three times a year by the United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNOV/CSDHA) in English, French and Spanish. As one of the leading United Nations publications on youth, the Bulletin has the following objectives: providing publicity for and about youth; highlighting issues of concern to youth; facilitating the sharing and exchange of information on such issues; and reporting on programmes and activities relating to youth.

Contributions to the Youth Information Bulletin are an important means of improving the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations. We would like to invite organizations and individuals to contribute regularly to the Bulletin.

We welcome all information materials on youth that might be of interest to others in this field. We also regularly review a wide variety of publications and extract information relevant to youth.

As the Bulletin is prepared in English at the beginning of March, July and November, contributions should reach us by the middle of February, June or October. Please send your materials to:

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I. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Highlights of deliberations on youth by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session

The General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, considered under its agenda item 93 the topic of policies and programmes involving youth. This item was discussed in the Third Committee of the General Assembly on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving youth: participation, development, peace (A/44/387). The report had been prepared in response to General Assembly resolutions 42/54 of 30 November 1987 and 43/94 of 8 December 1988, in which the Assembly called for a progress report on the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth (A/40/256, annex).

Discussions in the Third Committee

In discussions on the question of youth in the Third Committee, 47 representatives* took the floor. Their comments and observations centred on three salient issues: implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, persistent and emerging problems affecting youth, and improved channels of communication.

Implementation of the guidelines

Many representatives stressed the need to implement fully the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth within the context of the objectives and strategy of the International Youth Year. In that regard, most of the countries reported that they had either established or strengthened national co-ordinating mechanisms; some had formulated a national youth policy.

Several representatives stated that better regional and international co-operation was needed in the field of youth. In that connection, they recognized the role of the United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNOV/CSDHA) in highlighting the major issues and problems of youth and their possible solutions, in co-ordinating global efforts to achieve the objectives of the International Youth Year and in strengthening national capacities in developing comprehensive youth policies and programmes. Some speakers noted the need to explore new and improved ways of monitoring and reporting on progress achieved in the implementation of the guidelines.

Several representatives referred to the financial constraints that existed both at the national level and among United Nations bodies. Appreciation was expressed of the vital role of the United Nations Youth Fund in providing seed

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*Afghanistan, Albania, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, Federal Republic of, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malaysia, Malta, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yemen and Yugoslavia, as well as an observer from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

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money for youth activities; and proposals were supported for its inclusion in the programmes for which funds were pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

Several representatives welcomed the decision of the Commission for Social Development to consider the integration of young people into society as a priority subject at its next session in 1991. It was also stated that the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year, in 1995, would be an appropriate occasion for initiating global activities to strengthen youth-related components of development programmes.

Persistent and emerging problems affecting youth

Most representatives stressed that employment, education and training were the key issues affecting youth and called for concerted efforts to ensure that young people enjoyed basic rights such as the right to education and to work. They were also deeply concerned about emerging problems such as the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), drug abuse and the degradation of the environment, and called for increased action at all levels to combat those new threats to young people.

Some representatives supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that the General Assembly might wish to provide new directives and mandates to support Secretariat units and the specialized agencies in tackling those problems and in dealing with other critical issues in the light of their negative impact on the lives and future prospects of young people. One representative suggested that the Centre should be mandated to cover those specific issues rather than limit itself to general topics such as youth and development. To that end, further guidelines and extrabudgetary resources should be provided.

Improved channels of communication

The need for improved exchange of information on youth issues and problems at the international level was widely recognized. Several Governments reported that they had organized or that they had hosted international and regional youth meetings, exchange programmes and other events to foster cultural exchanges, international understanding and world peace.

The importance of expanding existing channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations was emphasized. Several representatives expressed their hope that more countries would include youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly. One expressed his concern at the decrease in the attention given to the functioning of those communication channels and suggested a thorough evaluation. Some representatives requested that the Geneva Informal Meeting of International Youth Non-Governmental Organizations (GIM), a main channel of communication, should be more open and representative and should produce more concrete results. One speaker hoped that the improvements suggested in the Secretary-General's report concerning the Youth Information Bulletin would bear fruitful results.

The vital role of non-governmental youth organizations in promoting youth-related activities and in increasing public awareness of youth issues was emphasized by many representatives. The need for increased direct contacts was stressed between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations at the regional and national levels and the Centre was called upon to give priority to developing the active involvement of those organizations by using the

existing consultative structures for non-governmental youth organizations in the United Nations system. One speaker supported the recommendation to conduct a survey on young people's perceptions of the United Nations.

Conclusions

The following conclusions may be drawn from the points made in the discussions:

(a) The full implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth within the context of the objectives and strategy of the International Youth Year should continue to be of vital importance;

(b) Advocacy of youth programmes and issues should be ensured at all levels. National efforts in this regard should be supported by international co-operation, using UNOV/CSDHA as the focal point for youth matters within the United Nations system;

(c) Increased efforts should be undertaken at all levels to combat new and emerging problems directly affecting youth, such as AIDS, drug abuse and the degradation of the environment;

(d) Non-governmental youth organizations have an important role to play in promoting the active and full participation of youth in society, especially in matters of peace and development. Co-operation between these organizations and the United Nations should be intensified.

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

On the basis of the above discussions, a draft resolution was submitted to the General Assembly and adopted as resolution 44/59. (For the text, see annex.)

In that resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, called for the exertion of all possible efforts for the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth; requested the inclusion of youth-related projects and activities in the programmes of the United Nations system, specifically on such themes as communication, health, housing, culture, youth employment and education, drug abuse and the environment; and also called for priority to be given to the formulation and implementation of effective measures for securing the exercise by youth of the right to education and to work, with a view to resolving the problem of youth unemployment.

The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the guidelines containing a draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and to submit it to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session, as well as to organize a meeting between the United Nations and non-governmental youth organizations "to discuss the problems of existing channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth organizations in order to achieve effective results for their improvement and for the establishment of effective functioning structures of communication and co-operation between youth and the United Nations".

B. Other activities of the United Nations system

United Nations Office at Vienna/ Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

UNOV/CSDHA, as the focal point for youth matters within the United Nations system, has continued to promote the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. This has involved, among other things, helping Governments and national machinery on youth to enhance their capacities for youth work by providing policy guidance and information; technical expertise; direct operational support, as well as advisory services. The Centre has also continued its activities concerning inter-agency collaboration in the field of youth and co-operation with youth and youth-related non-governmental organizations.

The youth-related activities carried out by UNOV/CSDHA from September to December 1989 are described below.

Consultative Meeting on Interregional, Regional and National Co-ordination for Integrated Youth Policies and Programmes, Pattaya, Thailand, 2-5 November 1989

The Consultative Meeting on Interregional, Regional and National Co-ordination for Integrated Youth Policies and Programmes was convened by UNOV/CSDHA in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in Pattaya, Thailand from 2 to 5 November 1989. The Meeting was attended by representatives of ESCAP, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UNOV/CSDHA, the Commonwealth Youth Programme, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Improved co-ordination of interregional, regional and national youth programmes has become an issue of considerable concern owing to the severe financial and human-resource constraints being experienced by many bodies and organizations. This lack of resources has severely hampered the development of youth policies and programmes. In an effort to ensure the most effective use of available resources, participants at the Meeting examined the planning and co-ordination of assistance for youth programmes in developing countries, reviewed the situation of co-operation and co-ordination in the United Nations system and other bodies and formulated recommendations on how to improve the co-ordination process in order to make it more effective and responsive to the needs of Member States. The Meeting also considered ways of increasing aid directly tied to youth programmes, improving information exchange and encouraging applied research and evaluation and training and advisory services. The report of the Meeting is available upon request.

International Meeting on Establishment and Development of National Machineries for Youth, Bangkok, Thailand, 8-12 November 1989

The International Meeting on Establishment and Development of National Machineries for Youth was convened at Bangkok from 8 to 12 November 1989 by UNOV/CSDHA and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, in co-operation with ESCAP. It was attended by senior decision-makers, scholars and practitioners from 20 developing countries, including the Minister of Youth of Cameroon, the Minister of Youth and Sports of Malaysia and the Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Jamaica.

The participants in the Meeting adopted guidelines for the establishment and development of national co-ordinating structures on youth policies and programmes. These guidelines reiterate the central role of a policy framework for co-ordination of action related to youth development. They set forth a strategic perspective on establishment and development of national co-ordinating mechanisms on youth, a multi-level structure linking policy co-ordination and planning, sectoral administration, implementation management and field operations; this might take the form of a national co-ordinating mechanism at the highest level of government. The guidelines emphasize the vital role played by technical co-operation in building national capacities and institutional capabilities for self-reliance, and identify specific areas for technical co-operation which relate to policy, sectoral and procedural co-ordination, as well as information and development support communications. The report of the Meeting will soon be issued as a technical publication of the United Nations.

Inter-agency co-operation

The 7th meeting of the Informal Inter-agency Working Group at the Technical Level on Youth was hosted by UNOV/CSDHA at Vienna from 4 to 5 December 1989. The group is composed of UNOV/CSDHA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV). The meeting was attended by representatives of UNOV/CSDHA, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO and UNV and observers from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Branch Office for Austria, the Department of Public Information, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Division of Narcotic Drugs and other concerned units of UNOV/CSDHA.

The Working Group reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, considered the results of the Consultative Meeting on Interregional, Regional and National Co-ordination for Integrated Youth Policies and Programmes and the International Meeting on Establishment and Development of National Machineries for Youth and discussed ways and means of strengthening national co-ordination mechanisms for youth. It also discussed the question of co-operation with non-governmental organizations for the development of youth activities at the field level, as well as tentative proposals for possible inter-agency co-operation.

Subsequently, the Working Group adopted several recommendations, which will be brought to the attention of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. Among other things, it was recommended that the United Nations system, taking advantage of the changing international climate, should, in addition to technical co-operation with developing countries, undertake appropriate activities in the field of youth, in order to enlarge and reinforce East-West co-operation; and as a joint inter-agency project, should carry out an analysis of all youth-related resolutions that emanated from the United Nations system in 1988 and 1989 with a view to identifying the priorities set by Member States, in order to facilitate their implementation by the Working Group.

Preparations for the International Symposium on the Integration of Young People into Society

Preparations have started for the International Symposium on the Integration of Young People into Society, which is expected to be held in Toledo, Spain, from 4 to 8 June 1990 and is being organized by UNOV/CSDHA in collaboration with the Youth Institute (Instituto de la Juventud), an independent body connected with the Spanish Ministry for Social Affairs. The purpose of the symposium will be to facilitate effective and adequate preparation for the in-depth discussion on the integration of young people into society by the Commission for Social Development, which will consider this topic as a priority issue at its next session in early 1991. The symposium will be attended by 32 experts (one expert from each of the 32 current member countries of the Commission) and observers from United Nations bodies and agencies.

Advisory services

Through the Interregional Adviser on Youth Policies and Programmes, UNOV/CSDHA continued to provide advisory services to Governments, at their request, in developing long-term, integrated national youth policies and programmes. From September to December 1989, the Interregional Adviser undertook missions to three countries: Colombia, the Comoros and Cyprus.

From 4 to 14 September, he visited the Comoros to take part in a review of the recently initiated project on the promotion of the socio-economic integration of young people within the context of community organizations, which is being carried out by the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Volunteers with the assistance of UNOV/CSDHA. Since the project is of an experimental nature, it was considered useful to monitor closely the first steps of its implementation, in order to allow for possible adjustments to the initial plan of operation.

The Adviser then visited Cyprus from 18 to 30 September in order to advise on the implementation of the new bill creating a governmental central Agency for Youth. In this Agency, the concerned ministries, the youth wings of the main political party and trade union, as well as the wider NGO community will be represented. Placed under the responsibility of a secretary-general, who is also special adviser to the President of the Republic, the Agency will work out a national youth policy and undertake projects for the benefit of youth.

The Adviser then went to Colombia from 28 October to 17 November. In the first phase, he assisted the National Development Council in the preparation of the youth sector of a special co-operation programme for Colombia, which had been prepared by the Government of Colombia in order to seek international assistance in its war against drugs. "Integration and development of youth" had been selected as one of the six major sectors of the special co-operation programme for which projects will be elaborated for financing by donor countries. The Adviser assisted in reviewing the profiles submitted by various Government departments as part of the youth package.

In the second phase of his mission, the Adviser assisted the Directorate of Community Integration and Development of the Ministry of the Interior in elaborating a strategy for the promotion of youth participation in development. The Directorate is responsible for the development of and support to some 40,000 community action organizations, which are designed to promote people's participation in meeting the needs of their community, offering a structure

that could be used to promote greater participation by young people in all aspects of development, as well as their own social, economic, cultural and political integration in society.

Collaboration with non-governmental organizations

Maintaining and strengthening channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations are principal ongoing functions of UNOV/CSDHA. Recognizing that non-governmental organizations are important partners in the field of youth, UNOV/CSDHA has continued to provide technical assistance and support to the Geneva Informal Meeting of International Youth Non-Governmental organizations (GIM) and the Vienna NGO Committee on Youth. UNOV/CSDHA was represented at the seventy-fourth session of GIM, held at Sochi, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, from 17 to 22 September 1989, and at the regular meetings of the Vienna NGO Committee on Youth, held at Vienna on 28 September and 30 November 1989.

United Nations awards testimonials in the field of youth

Numerous organizations and individuals around the world have demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedicated service in support of the United Nations programme on youth. Their leadership, dynamism and vision are crucial to the work of the United Nations in improving the situation of youth, particularly at the national level.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, has chosen one individual and five organizations to receive testimonials in the field of youth, in recognition of dedicated service in support of the United Nations programme on youth. This is the first time in the history of the United Nations that such testimonials have been awarded. The recipients are: His Excellency Dato Sri Mohammed Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Minister of Youth and Sports of Malaysia; AFS Intercultural Programs (AFS); Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP); Organization of Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International (OISCA International); International Union of Students (IUS); and World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

His Excellency Dato Sri Mohammed Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Minister of Youth and Sports of Malaysia, has made distinguished contributions in the field of youth in his capacity as Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Young Wing of the United Malays National Organization and Chief Minister of the State of Pahang.

AFS Intercultural Programs is an international non-governmental organization with headquarters in New York. It has contributed extensively in developing intercultural exchange programmes for high-school students and educators in more than 60 countries world-wide, where some 100,000 AFS volunteers provide community-based support networks.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme of the Commonwealth Secretariat, with headquarters in London, has been working closely with the United Nations in promoting International Youth Year objectives and in the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth.

The Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International, located in Tokyo, is the largest international non-governmental organization in Asia and has been an effective partner of the United Nations in promoting International Youth Year objectives. Through its various

affiliates in many countries in Asia and the Pacific, OISCA International provides vocational training and scholarships for young people in the areas of agriculture, industry and other fields.

The International Union of Students, an international non-governmental organization with headquarters in Prague, in consultative status with UNESCO, has been an effective partner of the United Nations in promoting the International Youth Year objectives in general and the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth in particular, through seminars, training programmes and field projects.

The World Young Women's Christian Association, with over 80 national associations, is one of the largest international women's organizations. World Young Women's Christian Association worked closely with the United Nations during the International Youth Year period and its follow-up in promoting the International Youth Year strategy, as well as the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, by conducting seminars, workshops, conferences etc.

The announcements of these awards were made at the opening ceremony of the International Meeting on Establishment and Development of National Machineries for Youth, held at Bangkok, Thailand, on 8 November 1989.

World AIDS Day observed

World AIDS Day 1989, on 1 December, which focused on "AIDS and youth", was opened by the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, at WHO headquarters in Geneva. The event was co-ordinated by the Geneva headquarters of WHO, which monitored global activities of the day's events; organized a 24-hour world-wide radio "watch" for the global broadcast media; held special workshops involving people living with human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and youth from local schools, and WHO families; organized poster, photographic and information exhibitions; presented a new 23-minute film entitled "Alison", about a young woman with AIDS; and organized the production by young people of a unique graffiti poster with the day's theme written in several languages.

Special events were held in all the regional offices of WHO, as well as at the WHO Liaison Office at the United Nations in New York, including collaboration with events organized by regional office host countries, distribution of special video-taped messages, drama presentations by invited groups and a conference on youth and AIDS held at the United Nations Office at Vienna in conjunction with the WHO European Office and the World Assembly of Youth.

The theme for World AIDS Day, on 1 December 1990, will be "Women and AIDS", as announced formally by WHO on 22 January 1990. This focus on women will reflect the increasing impact of AIDS on women, as well as the crucial role women play in preventing infection with HIV and caring for HIV-infected people and people with AIDS. This programme will be undertaken within the broader framework of women, health and development.

Source: WHO Global AIDS Factfile, 1 December 1989, WHO Press Release WHO/5.

International Literacy Year 1990

At the end of 1987, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/104 proclaiming 1990 as International Literacy Year and invited the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to assume the role of lead organization for its preparation and organization.

Illiteracy is one of the major global problems of our era. In spite of the decrease in the global illiteracy rate, largely because of increased and improved provision of basic schooling, from about one third at the beginning of the 1970s to about one quarter today, the absolute number of adult illiterates is steadily increasing at the same time as the world adult population. According to UNESCO estimates, there were, throughout the world, some 889 million illiterates aged 15 and above in 1985, or 27.7 per cent of the population in that age group. The worst affected regions were Asia, with an illiteracy rate of 36.3 per cent (666 million in absolute numbers), and Africa, with a lower absolute number (162 million) but a higher illiteracy rate (54 per cent).

Globally, considerably more women than men suffer from illiteracy: 34.9 per cent of women, at the present time, as against 20.5 per cent of men. Among young people, there are 84.3 million illiterates between the ages of 15 and 19. Furthermore, in the developing countries, an estimated 120 million children aged between 6 and 11 do not attend school.

The objectives of International Literacy Year, as approved by the UNESCO Conference at its twenty-fourth session, in 1987, are, in summary:

(a) Increasing action by the Governments of member States affected by illiteracy or functional illiteracy to eliminate these problems;

(b) Increasing public awareness of the scope, nature and implications of illiteracy, as well as of the means and conditions of combating it;

(c) Increasing popular participation, within and between countries, in efforts to combat illiteracy;

(d) Increasing co-operation and solidarity between member States in the struggle against illiteracy;

(e) Increasing co-operation within the United Nations system and, more generally, between all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the struggle against illiteracy;

(f) Launching the plan of action for the eradication of illiteracy by the year 2000.

Various meetings organized by UNESCO are scheduled for 1990 in connection with the Year. Among these are: the forty-second session of the International Conference on Education, to be held in September 1990, serving as a world congress of ministers of education on illiteracy; and an intergovernmental symposium, in March 1990, with the theme "Education for all", organized jointly by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNESCO and the World Bank, with a view to launching a plan of action in this field.

Source: UNESCO Adult Education Information Notes, Special Number - No. 4/1988.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

The General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, adopted General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, containing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This Convention enumerates in 54 articles a broad range of rights that apply to every human being under the age of 18, except in cases where laws provide for an earlier age of majority.

The Convention, representing 10 years of work, commits States parties to protect and respect a diverse range of children's rights. These rights include a child's right to a name and a nationality, survival, education, and protection against abuse, irrespective of the race, sex, religion or origin of the child or his or her parents or guardian. Children are also guaranteed freedom of thought and religion, protection from military recruitment below the age of 16 and against forcible separation from their parents.

The Convention is open for signature by all States. It will enter into force upon ratification or accession by 20 countries.

Twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development: Message of the Secretary-General

On the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, on 11 December 1989, the Secretary-General said that when the Declaration had been adopted, it had represented a significant culmination of ideas and hopes for achieving social progress in the context of wider processes of economic growth and change. In particular, it had emphasized the importance of an integrated strategy for development that took social aspects of development fully into account.

The principles and objectives of the Declaration were still valid, the message continued. At a time when so many countries were confronted by adverse economic conditions, the Declaration's call for greater responsibility on the part of the international community for finding solutions and for halting the deterioration in social conditions experienced by many countries was also being echoed in many international forums.

"As we prepare to enter a new decade in a vastly improved political climate ... let us rededicate ourselves to working together to alleviate poverty; to assure food security; to protect the environment; to promote better health care, education and adequate shelter for all; to improve the status of women and the well-being of less advantaged groups and to ensure democratic participation by peoples in determining their own destinies", the message said. "Above all, let us have the wisdom to encourage those social and economic policies that will enable all segments of society to enjoy higher living standards under conditions of social justice based on full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

II. ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

A. International level

Geneva Informal Meeting holds seventy-fourth session

The Geneva Informal Meeting of International Youth Non-Governmental Organizations (GIM) held its seventy-fourth session at Sochi, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on 22 September 1989. The session was attended by

representatives of 25 international youth organizations and by observers from UNOV/CSDHA and UNESCO.

The session discussed extensively the current relationship between non-governmental youth organizations and UNOV/CSDHA and made several recommendations aimed at improving collaboration between the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations in the field of youth. The session also elaborated on the preparatory activities for the forthcoming regional youth workshop in Africa entitled "Youth for food-health and development".

Further information may be obtained by contacting Egon Slopianka, European Secretariat of the Young Men's Christian Association, Postfach 410 149, Im Drusseltal 8, D-3500 Kassel, Federal Republic of Germany.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Youth Supercamp '89: Youth Message to the World

Red Cross/Red Crescent Youth Supercamp '89 marked the culmination of the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. During the first two weeks of September 1989, 511 representatives of 132 nationalities gathered together at Solferino, Italy, where Henry Dunant first conceived the idea of the Red Cross.

Supercamp participants made presentations of art, music, drama and writing to demonstrate and reinforce the commitment of youth to the Red Cross and Red Crescent principles.

At the conclusion of the event the Supercamp '89 Youth Message to the World was read in Arabic, English, French and Spanish by the four delegates chosen to represent the four corners of the world. Representatives of the United Nations, the Swiss Confederation, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross received the message for their institutions.

Source: Magazine of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Vol. 5, No. 3, September-December 1989.

International Sociological Association organizes XIIth Congress of Sociology

The International Sociological Association (ISA) will organize the XIIth World Congress of Sociology at Madrid, Spain, from 9 to 13 July 1990, with the theme: Sociology for one world: unity and diversity.

The provisional programme for Research Committee 34: Sociology of Youth includes, inter alia, sessions on youth and perestroika; theories and methods in youth research; development of youth research in Spanish-speaking countries; international comparative studies on youth; youth mobility and regional identity; youth and new technologies; European countries in comparison; youth and new technologies in developing countries; identity and communication of young people; international youth research 1990-1994, as well as joint seminars on: (a) students and politics: is there a resurgence?; (b) political socialization in the family; and (c) youth at work.

For further information, see International Bulletin for Youth Research (IBYR) 2/89 Special Edition, Deutsches Jugendinstitut, Freibadstrasse 30, D-8000 München 90, Federal Republic of Germany; or contact International Sociological Association, Pinar 25, 28006 Madrid, Spain.

United Nations Association of the United States of America prepares for next European International Model United Nations Conference in July 1990

Preparations are underway for the 1990 European International Model United Nations Conference (TEIMUN), which is scheduled to take place from 7 to 11 July 1990 in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Secretariat has been increased to include students both from the United States and from Europe, and there are plans now being made to include students from developing countries in the development of workshops and leadership training activities as soon as it is financially possible to do so. Many of the students who participated in the 1989 Conference have already informed the United Nations Association of the United States of America that delegations from their universities will be attending the 1990 Conference. The Association is also undertaking a thorough review of its procedures and operations for TEIMUN in 1990. Plans for increased efforts to encourage and secure participation of university students in Europe and the developing world in the 1990 Conference are being drawn up by the Secretariat. The 1990 Conference schedule will be expanded, with more time to be devoted to leadership training and workshops designed to encourage and support national development activities and programmes in developing countries. In this regard, it is planned to institute procedures that will allow students from developing countries to take a more leading role in developing and implementing the workshops in the 1990 Conference.

For further information, write to: Director, Model United Nations and Youth Programs, United Nations Association of the United States of America, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017-6104, United States of America.

International Youth Forum for Science and Technology

The first International Youth Forum for Science and Technology is scheduled to be held at Tunis from 22 to 27 July 1990, under the joint auspices of UNESCO, the Arab Union of Youth Science Clubs and the International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science and Technology (MILSET). An exhibition of scientific and technical projects created by young people, lectures and seminars as well as a trade display of the latest educational technology and a wide range of cultural activities will highlight this international event. Several Nobel Prize laureates and cosmonauts will also attend.

For more information, contact: Abdul-Hameed Al-Faqeh, Cité des jeunes, pavillon 7, avenue Mohammed V, Tunis, Tunisia.

International Workshop on Small-scale Projects

Youth for Development and Co-operation (YDC) is organizing an international workshop with about 35 participants from different countries entitled "Small-scale projects: engine of growth", from 17 to 23 April 1990, at Strasbourg, France.

Experts from governmental bodies, international agencies and non-governmental organizations on development will provide an introduction to the world of field projects, drawing on a wide range of experience, not only with successful projects, but also with projects that completely failed to reach

their objectives. Lectures, discussion forums and working groups will make up the programme. In addition, participants will have the opportunity of playing a simulation game to see for themselves when small is beautiful and if it could be more beautiful when larger.

For further information, contact: YDC International Secretariat, Overschleestraat 9, 1062 HN Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

World Organization of the Scout Movement holds 8th World Moot

The 8th World Moot of the Scout Movement will take place at Gilwell Park, Australia, from 28 December 1990 to 9 January 1991. A world moot is a gathering of young adult members of the Scout Movement aged between 18 and 25.

Participants from all over the world will gather to share an eleven-day programme of varied activities under the theme of "Scouting towards 2000". In addition to various sports activities, the programme includes displays, training seminars and service projects. An important feature of a World Moot is the World Youth Forum, where young adults representing different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs can discuss issues concerning them and the youth of their country. The Forum will also be an opportunity of exploring new ways in which Scouting can contribute towards community development and international peace at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

Source: World Scouting News, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 1990, World Organization of the Scout Movement, Box 241, 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland.

Dutch United Nations Student Association organizes international seminar on global integration

An international seminar entitled "Towards global integration" on relations between economic development, environment and security will be organized at Rotterdam, The Netherlands, from 10 to 17 May 1990, by the Dutch United Nations Students Association (SIB Rotterdam). About 130 students from many different countries and fields of study will look into the current role of international relations in the world and study the three major policy areas on which global integration would be useful: economic relations; environment; and peace and security. Also, the role, functioning and possibilities of the United Nations as co-ordinator of global integration will be looked into. At the end of the seminar, a final declaration will be released to the press.

For further information, contact: Committee International Seminar, SIB Rotterdam, Erasmus University, NT-10, Burg. Oudlaan 50, 3062 PA Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

International Youth Periodical Directory

The World Assembly of Youth (WAY) will publish an international directory of youth- and student-related newspapers, magazines and other periodicals that are either published by youth or for youth on any topic, including population and the environment. Campus newspapers will also be included in the directory.

Information should be sent to: WAY Youth Press Service, 4 Ved Bellahoj, 2700 Bronshoj, Denmark.

Students world-wide generate goodwill as Rotary Foundation scholars

Rotary international scholarship programme is now in its forty-third year. Since the programme began in 1947, over 21,000 awards have been given to students from 126 countries, worth nearly $US 150 million.

Designed to further world understanding, the scholarships provide an academic year's study in another country for graduate, undergraduate, vocational and journalism students and teachers of the handicapped. Rotary Foundation scholars are expected to share their own culture and broaden their understanding of other cultures in an active programme of people-to-people diplomacy.

For the academic year 1990/91 the Rotary Foundation is awarding over $US 16 million to 970 students from 71 countries to study in 48 different countries.

For further information, contact: Rotary International, One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201, United States of America, or a local Rotary Club.

B. Regional level

Documentation Resource Centre for Youth in Africa

The Youth Subunit of the World Council of Churches, in its process of facilitating the building of a global network and the growth of the ecumenical youth movement, has recommended that resource and documentation centres be set up and grouped in regional networks so that information can be exchanged and disseminated efficiently. The All Africa Conference of Churches Youth Desk at Lomé, Togo, will set up a resource and documentation centre, aimed at establishing links and exchanging information and resource materials with existing youth and student movements in Africa.

Source: WAY News and Features, No. 6, 1989, Ved Bellahoj 4, DK-2700 Bronshoj, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Nineteen African countries and youth workers attended Inter-country Youth Workshop on AIDS Prevention and Control, Yaoundé, Cameroon

National-level youth representatives from national youth councils and youth wings of political groups from 9 English- and 10 French-speaking countries* were at Yaoundé, Cameroon, to attend the Inter-country Youth Workshop on AIDS Prevention and Control, which was organized by WHO and the World Assembly of Youth, from 27 to 31 October 1989. The Workshop participants received information on the various aspects of AIDS and the human immunodeficiency virus. They discussed the current situation of youth and AIDS prevention programmes in the countries represented, as well as the need to initiate activities to create awareness among youth and youth organizations. Communication strategies for youth, useful for innovative approaches and

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*Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

national action programmes, were formulated. The most important part of the Workshop was the participants' encounter with focus groups of young people at grass-roots level, mostly between 15 and 18 years of age, with whom they had detailed discussions on various issues affecting them, including sexuality and AIDS. His Excellency Dr. Joseph Fofe, Minister of Youth and Sports, gave the closing address and distributed certificates.

Source: WAY Information, September-October 1989.

Youth in the struggle for the defence of Amazonia

The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) has started discussions on the project for an international campaign in defence of the Amazonian region. Ten international organizations took part in the discussions and they decided to organize a co-operative network called "World youth rainforest action", whose aim is to mobilize young people all over the world in defence of the rainforests.

WFDY strongly believes that young people have a very important role to play in the struggle for the defence of Amazonia and for the preservation of adventure on our planet.

From: World Youth, No. 6, 1989.

European Conference on the Role of Young People in the Future Society

From 10 to 12 October 1990, the City of Västeras, Sweden, and its young people will organize the European Conference on the Role of Young People in the Future Society with the theme "Youth in the 1990s". Approximately 1,000 participants - young people and youth experts - will attend the Conference and discuss topics such as: the historical heritage of today's youth policy; a brick in the wall - young people in tomorrow's "new" Europe; youth and work in tomorrow's society; silent girls and shouting boys; sport as youth pedagogy; participation as a weapon against marginalization. During the same week, a large youth festival will take place at Västeras.

For further information, contact: Institute for Social Policy, Allhelgonagatan 5, S-116 58 Stockholm, Sweden.

Youth rights in Europe

As part of its work on the European social dimension and young people, the Youth Forum of the European Communities, together with the Danielle Mitterrand Foundation "France libertés", organized a seminar on youth rights in Europe, from 22 to 24 February 1990, at Avignon, France.

The construction of Europe and growing internationalization of societies are leading more and more young people to compare their legal and social situation with that of young people in other countries or regions. The purpose of the seminar was therefore to measure the impact of the new challenges posed by changes in society on the processes that lead to the integration of young people into society and those that lead to their marginalization and exclusion. Its conclusions will be used to work out the key aspects of a co-ordinated Community policy on youth rights.

For further information, contact: Youth Forum Secretariat, 112, rue Joseph II, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

European Youth Forest Action organizes European Bike Tour 1990

For several years now, the European Youth Forest Action (EYFA) has been organizing bus tours for young people from East and West Europe to promote ecological and political ideas concerning Europe's environment and to give the participants a chance to learn about the environmental problems in Europe by visiting polluted areas and by organizing discussions, film evenings etc. This year, a bike tour of Europe will take place. Bike Tour 1990 will start at Bergen, Norway on 16 May. The main route will be through Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and Hungary and will end after about 3,000 kilometers in the EYFA dream village, Ecotopia 1990, in Hungary. Other side branches will start in Paris and Berlin and will meet the main route at different points. Bike Tour 1990 wants to present an alternative environment-friendly lifestyle to inform the population of Europe about the ecological problems of that continent and to express a political opinion on how they can be solved.

For further information, contact: EYFA, Postbox 566, 6130 AN Sittand, The Netherlands.

C. National level

The following information on national experiences in the field of youth has been taken from papers presented by 20 countries at the International Meeting on Establishment and Development of National Machineries for Youth, which was organized by UNOV/CSDHA at Bangkok, Thailand, from 8 to 12 November 1989.

Bangladesh

In 1978, a Ministry of Youth and Sports was created in Bangladesh. It has formulated an integrated national youth policy and has implemented youth development programmes through projects to promote the training of unemployed youth, income-generating activities through self-employment for trained youth, resource development, an employment project and a youth reward and publication project. Major achievements have been the initiation of regional youth exchange programmes; the directing of national policy towards bringing marginal subgroups of youth into the mainstream of society; the promotion of co-operatives in order to extend the range of economic roles open to youth; and the organization of young people through rural associations for development purposes. Also, a National Youth Day has been instituted, which is observed on 1 November every year.

In Bangladesh, 20 per cent of young people live in rural areas, where most of them are unable to attend an educational institution or to obtain skilled vocational training. Poverty and unemployment, shortage of skilled labour and a high level of illiteracy among rural youth have remained persistent problems, aggravated by other factors such as inadequate facilities for youth, non-availability of skilled trainers, lack of youth training centres, and insufficient human and financial resources.

Bhutan

In Bhutan, most of the youth-related activities are directed towards providing vocational training for young people. Bhutan's situation is unique in so far as all its educated youth are working for the Government either directly or indirectly or in educational institutions. It is reported that

problems such as drug abuse and unemployment are non-existent in this country. Bhutan's youth problems are rather related to cultural discontinuity and shifts in values taking place as a result of the modernization process. Therefore, the following needs have been recognized: to prepare young people to develop a sustainable life style by action in the area of policy formulation; and to initiate comprehensive youth programmes.

Botswana

In Botswana, the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, which has recently been given responsibility for youth matters, is formulating a national youth policy. Efforts are also being undertaken to strengthen the link between all ministries involved in youth activities. At the nongovernmental level, a Botswana National Youth Council has been established, which is composed of representatives of non-governmental youth organizations and representatives of key ministries. The Ministry's Youth Officer serves as the Council's secretariat. The Council's responsibilities include advising the Government on all matters pertaining to youth work; serving as a link between the Government, international organizations and youth organizations; and serving as a channel through which the Government can disburse funds for youth work. Moreover, the largest youth programme is operated by the Ministry of Education, which also runs the recently created Brigades Centres and Vocational Training Centres, and whose representatives serve on the National Youth Council. In Botswana, "youth" is defined to cover the age-group from 12 to 30 years.

Cameroon

In Cameroon, the "youth" age-group is defined as persons between 15 and 30 years of age and represents from 25 to 30 per cent of the total population, or 3 out of 10 million. The country has a relatively well-developed educational system comprising all levels. School attendance is about 80 per cent, with urban areas having a higher rate than rural areas. Vocational and technical training, however, needs to be developed. Cameroon has therefore started to increase its efforts in this area. The responsibility for policy implementation with regard to vocational training and professional integration of youth is vested in the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Ministry supervises training provided in youth centres (197 youth centres have already been established) and in youth associations grouped within the National Committee on Youth and Popular Education. So far, 12,000 rural youths and 5,000 urban young people have received training and placement in small enterprises. It is expected that a National Office of Employment and Manpower will soon be created to tackle the problem of unemployment among university students.

Colombia

Of Colombia's total population, 23 per cent, or 7 million in total numbers, is aged between 14 and 25 years of age. Of this group, 44 per cent is currently studying in high schools, colleges or universities. Even though much has been done to improve education in this country, youth unemployment still remains high, with 37 per cent of young people, or 2.4 million persons, neither studying nor working. Other problems that affect young people in Colombia are drug abuse, delinquency (39 per cent of delinquency cases involve persons aged between 16 and 24 years), prostitution, alcoholism and violence. One out of four deaths among Colombian youth is due to violent causes.

Various government programmes were designed to solve these problems, for example, unemployment projects; drug addiction and alcoholism control plans; and prison rehabilitation programmes. They were, however, impeded by the lack of an integrated national youth policy, until the National Co-ordination Council, a governmental structure responsible for formulating a national youth policy, was established in 1985. The Council is represented by the Minister of National Education in co-ordination with the National Planning Department, and includes representatives of youth and student associations. The programme of the Council covers the organization of a youth information and documentation centre, the organization of camps, forums and meetings, the carrying out of research and studies, and the promotion of drug-abuse campaigns. Its main objective is the creation of a National Plan for Youth. After several years of work, a preliminary document for the National Plan for Youth has been finalized, which is now before the Government for consideration. It is expected that the Plan will be adopted in the course of 1990.

Cuba

Cuba has a youth population of 2 million, or 20 per cent of the total population. There are various youth-related organizations in the country, such as the Federation of University Students, the Federation of High School Students, the Patriotic-Military Society, youth clubs and labour organizations. School attendance in the age bracket 6-14 years is about 98.5 per cent. At present, 2.6 million Cubans are studying, most of them children and teenagers. The Ministry of Education serves as the principal body responsible for youth development and works closely with the above organizations. A basic concern of the Ministry is to develop a combination of study with productive and socially useful work for Cuban youth. According to the types and levels of education, this principle is applied through (a) school gardens and productive lots in day-care centres and elementary schools, where pupils grow short-cycle vegetables for consumption in their own schools; (b) "school-goes-to-the-countryside" programmes, in which students of all urban non-boarding general secondary schools work for 30 or 45 days in agricultural projects; (c) schools in the countryside, where students in secondary boarding schools work three hours daily in agricultural plants throughout the school year; and (d) socially useful work for students. In higher education, the study-work principle is applied in the teaching-research-production system, where students are trained in close relation with their future area of work. In addition, the Ministry of Education has developed innovative approaches to education, such as incorporating skills-training components into traditional out-of-school programmes.

Jamaica

The Ministry of Youth and Community Development is responsible for national co-ordination of youth affairs. The Ministry holds regular consultations with non-governmental organizations, and there are immediate plans to form a National Youth Council that will embrace all youth-oriented political party organizations and all youth-serving groups. Plans are also underway for establishing a National Youth Research and Resource Institute to help formulate youth policy and develop programmes. Major achievements have been the inclusion of youth concerns in the new Five-year Development Plan and the creation of a Youth Task Force, with representation from youth organizations.

Jordan

Jordan is a young country, with 72 per cent of its population below 25 years of age. The youth population (10-34 years, according to the country's definition) is 40 per cent of the total population.

The Ministry of Youth, established in 1978, is the governmental body responsible for youth affairs. It has a full-time staff of 150 persons and operates with a budget of $US 1,500,000. The Ministry develops youth programmes, including vocational training projects and guidelines for youth involvement in cultural and educational fields. It provides assistance to youth centres and sports organizations, and undertakes research on the situation and needs of youth, including the compilation of statistical profiles. The Ministry also organizes international, national and regional youth gatherings and develops leisure and recreational activities for young people.

The objectives of the 1986-1996 development plan for youth include the building of 10 sports complexes and a sports city at Irbid, as well as the establishment of 40 youth centres and five permanent work camps. In addition, 275 secondary schools will be equipped to serve as local area centres for youth.

Malaysia

The demographic statistics of Malaysia show that while the population increases, it becomes progressively younger, with 37 per cent now below 15 years of age and 43 per cent between 15 and 39 years of age.

Malaysia has well-developed institutional structures for dealing with youth matters. The Ministry of Youth and Sports, created in 1964, serves as the central governmental co-ordinating body. It has a full-time staff of 1,000 persons and a budget of $US 30 million. Its objectives are to provide guidance to youth and to mobilize young people for development through the provision of technical, business and leadership skills. There are also youth and sports departments at State and district levels. The Ministry works in close co-operation with the non-governmental sector, namely, the Malaysian Youth Council, a strong non-governmental umbrella organization with 1.8 million members, and the National Youth Consultative Council, which acts as advisory body to the Government in all matters concerning youth. In 1985, the National Youth Policy was formulated to serve as a guideline for the integrated planning, implementation and co-ordination of youth programmes. Priorities for further action include research and development, programmes for urban youth, creation of youth co-operatives and technical co-operation.

Nepal

The Nepal Youth Organization (NYO), established in 1962, is an autonomous youth organization instituted under the Constitution. It has been assigned the tasks of mobilizing youth for development and dealing with youth-related problems at governmental and non-governmental levels. All its members and office-bearers are elected by direct election at local level and by indirect election at higher levels. NYO is also a member of the Asian Youth Council. Among its many activities, NYO organizes programmes for the academic, vocational and physical development of young people, conducts literacy programmes, runs river-control programmes and undertakes projects on drug abuse and AIDS. Of particular importance are its massive reforestation activities: between July and August 1989, about 80,000 trees were planted. Recently, NYO was also assigned the responsibility of providing family-planning services.

Besides NYO, which functions at governmental as well as non-governmental level, there is the Youth Activity Co-ordination Committee (YACC), a non-governmental youth organization, which runs a number of youth clubs. There

are also about 4,000 youth clubs (Four-H Clubs) at village level, which operate under the Ministry of Agriculture in co-operation with the NYO. They provide training programmes for local youth in agriculture, skill development for women, income-generating activities, literacy and health.

Nigeria

The National Youth Council, established in 1964, comprises 30 national youth organizations and 22 youth councils. The National Youth Council is the umbrella non-governmental youth organization that co-ordinates the activities of all youth organizations in the country. It works in close co-operation with the Federal Ministry of Social Development, Youth and Sports, established in 1982, which co-ordinates and monitors all programmes for youth development in the country. Its major achievements have included the development of a national youth policy, the initiation of employment-generating programmes for youth, organization of literacy campaigns, the development of youth leadership courses and the organization of national youth gatherings and rallies.

Papua New Guinea

The National Youth Council, established in 1981, serves as the national co-ordinating mechanism for youth issues in Papua New Guinea. It is an autonomous body, composed of representatives of the 19 provincial youth councils and NGOs, and acts in an advisory capacity to the Minister of Youth and Recreation in all youth-related matters. The National Youth Council is an integral part of the National Youth Movement Programme (NYMP) launched in 1981. NYMP is the first nation-wide government programme for youth. It supports youth groups at the village level, linking them with developmental activities of extension services in the country. The three major components of NYMP are Network and Communication, Youth Projects and the National Youth Service (for education, training and disaster relief). At the provincial level, NYMP is implemented by the youth offices of the provincial governments, which work in close co-operation with non-governmental organizations. At the grass-roots level, the voluntary community youth co-ordinators organize self-employment and training projects, community services and cultural activities for young people. Other important components of NYMP are the youth exchange scheme, the urban youth programme, the grants scheme, as well as training, production, communications and publications schemes.

Philippines

Of the total Philippine population of 54 million, 62 per cent are children and youth under 24 years of age. About 60 per cent of the population lives in rural areas. Despite the increase in enrolment in public and private schools, there has been a marked increase in the percentage of out-of-school youths. Problems facing young people include malnutrition, unemployment, drug abuse, as well as housing and environment-related issues.

Efforts have been undertaken by both the Government and the non-governmental sector to address these problems through youth development programmes. In 1987, the Presidential Council for Youth Affairs (PCYA) was established with a staff of 30 and an annual budget of $US 20,000. PCYA, which functions under the Office of the President, co-ordinates its activities with those of 70 national youth and youth-serving organizations, 12 governmental departments, and 13,000 provincial and local youth-serving organizations. Its tasks include policy advocacy and recommendation, research and studies on youth, as well as the implementation of programmes and projects assigned to it by the Office of the President. It also participates in international and

regional conferences and exchange programmes. PCYA has recently taken the initiative in formulating a youth-development-plan framework based on the United Nations guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, which has been presented to non-governmental youth groups for policy proposals.

Republic of Korea

Since July 1988, the Central Bureau of Youth within the Ministry of Sports has been designated as the central mechanism for youth administration. It has four operational sections: youth policy, youth programme guidance, youth exchange and youth institutions, and is responsible for the implementation of the Act concerning the growth and development of youth. Each provincial government also has a youth section, and all county and municipal offices have a subsection in charge of youth. One of its major achievements in the planning for youth has been the publication since 1978 of a series of White Papers on youth issues. Another important new institution concerned with youth questions is the Korean Institute for Youth and Children, established in 1989. It is responsible for policy development and the elaboration of programmes for youth and adolescents between the ages of 9 and 24.

Saudi Arabia

The General Presidency for Youth Welfare, created in 1974, is responsible for the development of the general policy for youth welfare services. It has a staff of 1,317 members and a budget of $US 300 million. The General Presidency of Youth Welfare is headed by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Fahad bin Abdul Aziz. The basic general objectives of the General Presidency are: to organize youth activities in the cultural, educational, artistic, social and athletic fields; to ensure social services for Saudi youth; to conduct and study youth problems; to propose legislation of concern to youth; and to provide leadership training in different youth activities. Major achievements have been the construction of sports centres all over the Kingdom and the provision of financial support for youth activities, particularly for disabled youth.

Thailand

In Thailand, the administrative organization of youth may be classified into four different types: the central agency, Government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and youth organizations.

The National Youth Promotion and Co-ordination Committee was established in 1978 by the Cabinet as the central agency for youth, with the National Youth Bureau serving as Secretariat. The Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and some of its members are representatives from other ministries concerned. Within the Bureau, there are about 40 sub-committees on various research projects and aspects related to child and youth issues. The National Youth Bureau promotes child and youth development activities, has responsibilities in the area of policy formulation, planning and programming, monitoring and evaluation. It co-ordinates between government and non-government agencies and serves as an information centre for child and youth development. At the local level, there are provincial sub-committees on child and youth development for all 73 provinces, chaired by the governor of each province. There are also municipality sub-committees chaired by the mayors of 132 municipalities in the Kingdom. At the grass-roots level, there are district sub-committees, chaired by the chiefs of district for 742 districts. These sub-committees include representatives of governmental and non-governmental

organizations related to child and youth development. They are responsible for the planning and implementation of child and youth development activities within the National Development Plan. They also undertake special activities for the National Children's Day/Week, the National Youth Day/Week and youth exchange programmes.

In the Sixth National Development Plan (1987-1991), youth development was included in the Development Plan for Quality of the Population and Labour Force. Participants in its formulation were all governmental and non-governmental agencies, academics, experts in youth development and interested groups. There will also be an Implementation Plan, co-ordinated by the NYB in collaboration with all agencies concerned.

About 200 non-governmental organizations are currently operating in the area of child and youth development, whose co-ordinating body, the National Council for Child and Youth Development, is also represented in the National Youth Promotion and Co-ordinating Committee.

Trinidad and Tobago

In Trinidad and Tobago, there has been a marked emphasis during the last few years on issues concerning young people. Efforts are being made to give national exposure to issues such as unemployment (about 48 per cent among youth, who comprise 23 per cent of the population), delinquency and drug abuse, and to manage effectively the real concerns of youth.

In 1981, the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Creative Arts was established as the executive body responsible for co-ordinating and implementing public policy and programmes on youth affairs. One of its major achievements has been the establishment of the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP), which began in 1988. The Programme, which is designed for wage employment and which stresses self-reliance and self-employment, graduated 8,000 of its 12,000 registrants in 1989 and expects to graduate 12,000 of its 13,600 registrants in 1990. Its strength is a post-training soft-loan component that assists graduates to set up their own businesses. In 1989, a youth representative was appointed to the National Planning Commission. Also in 1989, the Cabinet approved the formation of a National Youth Advisory Council, which is scheduled to become operational in 1990. The Council will comprise between 12 and 15 persons, with appropriate representation of age, gender, ethnicity and socio-economic class, and will include youth from voluntary organizations, professionals and specialists involved with young people. The Council will act as an advisory body to the Ministry.

Tunisia

The Ministry of Youth and Sports, created in 1964, has formulated a national youth policy with particular emphasis placed on institution-building (schools, sports facilities for youth, etc.), as well as on combating youth unemployment. Financial assistance is granted to youth organizations and associations. The recently created Supreme Council of Youth will facilitate interdepartmental co-ordination. In 1988, which was declared National Year of Youth, over 600 meetings were held with youth and youth representatives to discuss the implementation of the youth policy. A Ministry for Children has also been created.

United Arab Emirates

In 1980, the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports was established in the United Arab Emirates, with major emphasis on sports programmes. The Supreme Council functions as the de facto national co-ordinating mechanism. Programmes for youth in the United Arab Emirates include formal education, health programmes, non-formal education, delinquency treatment programmes and programmes for handicapped youth. Special programmes for young women are run by women's associations. Private sports and cultural clubs for non-nationals, who comprise over 70 per cent of the total population in the United Arab Emirates, are run independently.

Viet Nam

The Viet Nam Youth Federation, founded in 1946 and with approximately 3.2 million members, functions as the national co-ordinating mechanism for youth. The Federation has a budget of $US 50,000 and a secretariat of 19 people. It is an umbrella organization of non-governmental organizations and is formally linked to the Government through its Chairman, who also heads the Youth and Children's Committee of the National Assembly.

The Government is according great importance to questions concerning young people. For the last 20 years, youth representation in the National Assembly, i.e. the legislative institution of the country, has ranged from 11.3 per cent to 33.5 per cent. General guidelines and specific programmes for youth up to the year 1995 have been worked out, including the establishment of vanguard youth enterprises, youth sports and cultural centres, and the organizing of a campaign against illiteracy, especially in rural areas.

Annex

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/59 OF 8 DECEMBER 1989

Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/94 of 8 December 1988,

Recalling its resolution 40/14 entitled "International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace", adopted on 18 November 1985 by the General Assembly acting as the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year, by which the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth were endorsed, and its subsequent resolutions,

Recalling its resolutions 32/135 of 16 December 1977 and 36/17 of 9 November 1981, by which it adopted guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, and its subsequent resolutions,

Recalling also its resolution 40/16 of 18 November 1985 entitled "Opportunities for youth" and its subsequent resolutions,

Recalling further its resolution 36/29 of 13 November 1981 and its subsequent resolutions in which it, inter alia, recognized the need to adopt appropriate measures for securing the implementation and the enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the right to education and to work,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with resolution 43/94, 43/

Recognizing that the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth 44/ provide a constructive framework for a long-term strategy in the field of youth,

Expressing its serious interest in systematically consolidating and building further on the results of the International Youth Year in order to contribute to the increasingly active participation of young people in the political and socio-economic life of their countries,

Convinced of the importance of improving the effective and efficient functioning of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations as a means of providing adequate information on young people and of encouraging their active participation in the United Nations system at the national, regional and international levels,

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43/ A/44/387.

44/ A/40/256, annex.

Recognizing that in many countries the majority of young people, under prevailing critical social and economic conditions, are facing serious problems in the exercise of their right to education and to work and that insufficient education and unemployment of young people limit their ability to participate effectively in the development process and impede their full integration into society,

Emphasizing that the suitable education of young people, equipping them with proper and up-to-date skills and qualifications, prepares them for entering the labour market at a level commensurate with their skills,

Noting that the year 1990 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2037 (XX) of 7 December 1965,

1. Calls upon all States, all United Nations bodies, in particular the Economic and Social Council through its Commission for Social Development, the specialized agencies and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to continue to exert all possible efforts for the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth; 45/

2. Appeals to all States to adopt effective measures, in accordance with their legislations, particularly in the fields of teaching, education, culture and information, in order to strengthen and promote among nations and, primarily, among youth understanding, mutual respect and friendship among nations, for the further improvement of an international climate free of mistrust and discord;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to promote and monitor intensively, by using the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as a focal point, the inclusion of youth-related projects and activities in the programmes of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, specifically on such themes as communication, health, housing, culture, youth employment and education, drug abuse and the environment;

4. Calls upon Member States, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other governmental and intergovernmental organizations to implement fully the guidelines relating to the channels of communication adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 32/135 and 36/17;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to organize a meeting, if necessary from extrabudgetary resources, between United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies concerned and non-governmental youth organizations to discuss the problems of existing channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth organizations in order to achieve effective results for their improvement and for the establishment of effective functioning structures of communication and co-operation between youth and the United Nations;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to develop methods that indicate specifically how the channels of communication could efficiently be attuned to youth-related projects and activities of the United Nations organs and of the

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45/ A/40/256, annex.

specialized agencies, and to include in a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution concrete suggestions for co-operation between the United Nations system and the non-governmental youth organizations;

7. Calls upon youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations at the national, regional and international levels to continue to act as channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations by putting forth their proposals for co-operation with the United Nations system and, where such mechanisms do not exist, recommends that national co-ordinating committees of the International Youth Year should similarly continue to act as channels of communication;

8. Calls upon all States, all governmental and non-governmental organizations, interested United Nations bodies, in particular the Economic and Social Council through its Commission for Social Development, and specialized agencies to continue to give priority to the formulation and implementation of effective measures for securing the exercise by youth of the right to education and to work, with a view to resolving the problem of unemployment among youth;

9. Calls upon Member States to enable young people to obtain proper and up-to-date education and to pay increased attention to the promotion of the employment of youth in all sectors of the economy, thereby facilitating their integration into social and professional life;

10. Stresses the importance for youth and youth organizations of the freedom of association, in accordance with the relevant national legislation, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 46/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 47/ and other relevant international human rights instruments, so as to enable their active and direct participation at all stages of implementation of the policies, projects and activities organized at the local, national, regional and international levels in the field of youth;

11. Emphasizes that providing education and employment to each young person is a worthy goal for all States and should serve the full development of the human being, which can best be ensured by countries that respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of everyone;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibilities for a linkage between the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Institute of HOPE '87, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, 48/ taking into account the importance of that Institute in promoting, technically and financially, income-generating youth employment projects;

13. Again invites Governments to include youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings and international conferences dealing with youth-related issues, thus enhancing and strengthening the channels of communication through the discussion of such issues, with a view to finding solutions to the problems confronting youth in the contemporary world;

46/ Resolution 217 A (III).

47/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

48/ A/44/387.

14. Invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously to the United Nations Youth Fund, in order to enable it to continue its mandated role and to contribute effectively to the needs of developing countries in the field of youth;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to include the United Nations Youth Fund among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

16. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the guidelines containing a draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and to submit it, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

17. Decides to consider the item entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth" at its forty-fifth session on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution.